

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 11649 260911Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
IO-13 ACDA-07 /079 W  
-----024053 261243Z /45

R 260837Z SEP 77  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6878  
INFO USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
CINCPAC  
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 11649

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT MILI CH  
SUBJECT: WEI KUO-CHING NAMED ARMY'S CHIEF POLITICAL COMMISSAR

REF: A. PEKING 2161, B. IR 6-842-0716, C. HONG KONG 10276

1. RUMORS OF PO1. RUMORS OF POLITBURO MEMBER WEI KUO-CHING'S  
APPOINTMENT  
AS DIRECTOR OF THE ARMY'S GENERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (GPD)  
(REFTELS A AND B) WERE CONFIRMED IN A SEPTEMBER 24 NCNA  
REPORT. THE GPD POSITION, EQUIVALENT TO CHIEF POLITICAL  
COMMISSAR OF THE PLA, HAS BEEN VACANT SINCE THE PURGE  
OF ZGANG OF FOUR" MEMBER CHANG CHUN-CHIAO LAST OCTOBER.

2. WEI WAS IDENTIFIED AS AS GPD DIRECTOR IN AN ARTICLE ON  
THE CLOSING CEREMONY FOR A TWO-MONTH PLA THEATRICAL  
FESTIVAL. COVERAGE OF THE CEREMONY IN HONG KONG'S  
PRC-CONTROLLED PRESS HEADLINED THE DISCLOSURE OF WEI'S  
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APPOINTMENT AND HIS PICTURE APPEARED ON THE FRONT OF  
PAGE OF TWO LOCAL DAILIES.

3. THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION WHETHER WEI WILL CONTINUE  
AS PARTY FIRST SECRETARY IN KWANGTUNG, A POSITION HE  
HAS HELD SINCE OCTOBER 1975. WEI'S TWO PREDECESSORS AS  
GPD DIRECTOR, CHANG CHUN-CHIAO AND LI TEH-SHENG, BOTH

DID CONCURRENTLY SERVE AS PROVINCIAL FIRST SECRETARIES,  
BUT WERE BASED FULL-TIME IN PEKING.

4. WEI AND CANTON MR COMMANDER HSU-SHIH-YU HAVE CON-  
STITUTED A POWERFUL TEAM WITH INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT SOUTH  
CHINA. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL RECENT REPORTS (REFTELS  
A, B, AND C) HSU ALSO MAY SOON BE TRANSFERRED TO PEKING  
AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE. HSU AND WEI BOTH ARE BELIEVED  
TO HAVE CLOSE TIES TO TENG HSIAO-PING, AND ARE RUMORED  
TO HAVE PROVIDED HIM REFUGE IN KWANGTUNG DURING HIS  
POLITICAL DISGRACE IN 1976.

CROSS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 PEKING 2161, 77 HONG KONG 10276  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 1137813  
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**TAGS:** PINT, MILI, CH  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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